DRAFT
Statement of Work
For
Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan
Environmental and Economic Equity Support
Agricultural Land Use/Analysis of Land Use Change/Mitigation Alternatives

1.0 GENERAL

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) provides a blueprint for the restoration and preservation of the south Florida ecosystem, while providing for the other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection. This nationally and internationally known ecosystem that comprises south Florida has deteriorated significantly over the past 50 years, and the outlook for the future, without implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, shows further degradation. Water management practices have disrupted the natural quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water to the natural system and the size of the remaining natural system has been substantially reduced as a result of development in south Florida

The purpose of the Environmental and Economic Equity (EEE) Program Management Plan (PMP) is to provide a framework for the social and economic (socio-economic) efforts that will accompany and support the implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), thus minimizing potential adverse impacts and maximizing both system-wide and project specific benefits. The plan includes six objectives:

1. Promote the economic equity throughout the life of the CERP through maximum utilization of socially and economically disadvantaged small business concerns and individuals in the performance of prime contract and subcontract awards.

2. Provide relevant, timely, valid, and reliable socio-economic and environmental justice baseline data for system-wide and project-specific assessments.

3. Institute the sensitivity for and the provision of environmental justice assessment procedures, according to NEPA guidelines, for all CERP project planning and decision making.

4. Provide overall guidance, support, and coordination for project-level activities on matters pertaining to socio-economic characteristics, assessments, and issues relating specifically to socio-economics and environmental justice.

5. Incorporate and utilize appropriate models, improved methods, and research in the subjects of demography, economics, land use, water use, water conservation, environmental justice, public involvement, and community-based planning to enhance decision-making both system wide and at the project level.

6. Evaluate and assess socio-economic parameters of the CERP through development of indicators and performance measures, periodic monitoring of with/without project condition, and the institution and utilization of quantitative and qualitative feedback mechanisms from within the CERP process and from the general public.

Roughly one-third of the land area in south Florida is characterized as agricultural. Much of this land is located adjacent to the remnant natural systems, and much of this land also serves as a buffer between urban/suburban areas and the interior natural systems. The CERP proposes numerous restoration projects, many of which will occur on lands presently characterized as agricultural. Although agriculture is distributed throughout the region (citrus on the southwestern coast and the upper east coast; dairy and cattle north of Lake Okeechobee; sugarcane south of Lake Okeechobee; and winter vegetables and ornamentals in southern Miami-Dade), the rural agricultural economies in and around Lake Okeechobee may be most affected by CERP.

2.0 TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

General Scope of Work

The technical and scientific work to be completed under this contract will support the Corps' ongoing involvement with the EEE component of CERP. The Corps intends to issue a single contract under this procurement consisting of three elements: 1) Projecting Future Agricultural Land Use, 2) Socio-Economic Analysis of Agricultural Land Changes, and 3) Mitigation Alternatives of Agricultural Lange Change Impacts.

Work Element 1: Projecting Future Agricultural Land Use

CERP implementation will be enhanced by utilizing the most accurate of agricultural land use forecasts (spatially and temporally), assessing the expected impacts of these projects, and offsetting these impacts with measures that not only minimize detrimental effects, but may also add value to the local or regional economy. The contractor shall conduct a series of analyses to separate and quantify the effects of CERP on agriculture and related economies. The projects that are expected to require the purchase of large amounts of agricultural lands will generally be completed by 2013. Economic impacts will be analyzed in depth to this milestone date and less closely during five-year periods after that, ending in 2050. The study area will include all or part of the following counties: St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, Okeechobee, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Collier, and as appropriate, Monroe County (within SFWMD boundaries), which will be affected by large agricultural lands. The analysis will contain a narrative description of anticipated change and the potential influences causing these anticipated changes. The evaluation will be organized by agricultural land use employing the following categories: fruits/ vegetables/ berries, sugar, cattle/livestock, and citrus.

Although agricultural land use grew steadily between the early 1900s to the 1980s, recent trends exhibit a decline in agricultural lands. The number of acres designated as agricultural in south Florida decreased in the decade between 1982 and 1992. Some research presumes a stable agricultural base whose changes in water use demands or hydrologic characteristics (runoff, storage) would be minor. With a 50-year horizon, an assessment as to what will remain in agriculture, where, when changes will take place, and what influences these changes is needed.

Information should be divided spatially by drainage basins. Water supply plans (including information on pre-established drainage basins) will be provided to the contractor by the South Florida Water Management District. Current land use information will also be provided. The analysis will identify the current use of land in each basin. Many issues may affect the land use forecast and the analysis will identify these potential effects.

The contractor will develop a report, organized by agricultural land use by defined drainage basins, that addresses:

- Analysis of current land uses for agriculture.
- Land use analysis in 5 year increments beginning in 2000 and ending in 2050.
- Narrative of change and influences causing the forecasted change.

Work Element 2: Socio-economic Analysis of Agricultural Land Changes

Changes in agricultural land use due to Everglades restoration projects may have social and economic impacts, particularly for the rural communities in and around Lake Okeechobee. The contractor should conduct an analysis utilizing the forecasted agricultural changes and relate these scenarios to income, employment, and property tax ramifications, both positive and negative. The contractor should identify the economic effects of land use changes due to the CERP land purchases and describe anticipated effects of CERP restoration projects to the local and regional economies. Although regional effects are known, it is essential to examine county-level effects to develop mitigation strategies within the local communities.

The short-term analysis will assess the specific direct, indirect, and induced effects (multiplier effects) on income, employment, and taxes to the determined milestone date of 2013. Long-term analysis will consider direct economic effects to 2050. The socio-economic effects are to be independent of or separable from changes that would likely occur without CERP.

The contractor will consider the following in the analysis:

- Increases, decreases and/or transfers of agricultural land.
- Land and yield transfers from one taxing authority to another.

- Crop yield changes may already be occurring.
- Considerations for parcel-specific sites that have been purchased.
- Future value of citrus agricultural lands may be in decline.
- Purchased lands are kept in production until actually needed.
- Agricultural jobs lost in one location might transfer elsewhere.
- Job creation of construction, operation and maintenance (O&M), and environmental monitoring.
- Import/export factors of migratory labor vs. permanent jobs or contracts.
- Time lag between lost and created jobs.
- Economic adjustments induced by changes and time path of adjustments.
- Risk and certainty.
- Transfer of wealth from land sales may induce new investments.
- Public lands may form barriers for urban development.

The contractor will develop a report, organized by county, that addresses:

- Acreage taken out of production as a direct result of CERP – tie to tax base/county.
- The economic impact to local and regional economy (loss of existing jobs/loss to existing taxes).
- The economic gain to local and regional economy as a result of new jobs/new industry.
- The short and long term and spatial economic impacts independent of/or separable from agricultural land use trends already in motion.
- The estimate time lag between agricultural land lost and the creation of replacement jobs.
- The local impacts of transfer of productive agricultural lands from one taxing authority to another.

Work Element 3: Mitigation Alternatives of Agricultural Land Change Effects

This task will propose a variety of planning or mitigation alternatives. While the focus will remain on minimizing negative effects, information regarding opportunities to capitalize on positive effects will be presented. Potential planning or mitigation actions will not be related to specific scenarios, but to each potential effect. Such information should be provided to individual project managers for utilization in their specific projects.

The contractor will develop a report that addresses:

- Planning and mitigation alternatives for agricultural land changes.
- Local population retraining options.
- An analysis of alternative employment opportunities, practicality, and feasibility for affected individuals/businesses or displaced individuals.

3.0 DELIVERABLES

All deliverables must meet professional standards and meet the requirements set forth in contractual documentation. The contractor will be responsible for providing all deliverables specified. All reports shall be furnished in electronic and printed format. Electronic formats are MS Word 2000 or higher and Adobe Acrobat version 4.0 or higher or other software as specified by the Federal government. Each project shall have an electronic deliverable consisting of all submittals, deliverables, graphics, and final products as identified in the statement of work. The final electronic deliverable will also be provided in a pdf file format suitable for posting on a website.

4.0 SCHEDULE OF DELIVERABLES

The deliverables for this task will be in the form of three separate technical reports, one per work element. The three work elements will be completed sequentially. The contractor will have 90 working days after receipt of government furnished information and notice to proceed (NTP), to produce a draft for work element 1. The Corps/SFWMD will review the draft document over a 10 working day review period. The contractor will have 10 working days to incorporate comments and finalize the document. This cycle will be repeated for work element 2 and work element 3, predicated on Corps/SFWMD review of previous work element. Final reports will be due no later than October 30, 2003.

5.0 REQUIRED EXPERTISE

To be considered for contract award, the contractor shall show expertise in the following areas:

- Knowledge of south Florida agriculture,
- Knowledge of regulations affecting agriculture, in general,
- Knowledge of international trade environment for agricultural products,
- Knowledge of all factors affecting the competitiveness of Florida agriculture,
- Regional economic data and models for impacted areas,
- Economic impact assessments,
- South Florida agriculture and land use change,
- Knowledge of labor force and small business evaluation and training,
- Knowledge of local economic development approaches and programs,
- Knowledge of state and federal labor force and business development programs.

6.0 POINT OF CONTACT

The point of contact and coordinator for this Scope of Work and receiver of all final deliverables will be Mr. Randy Edney, CESAJ-DR-R (561) 683-1577, ext. 14 at the Restoration Program Office, 1400 Centerpark Blvd., Suite 750, West Palm Beach, FL 33401.